ABSTRACT OF THE INVENTION

INTERLEAVED SEQUENCING METHOD FOR MULTIPLE TWO-DIMENSIONAL SCANNING CODES

A component has three, laser etched, two-dimensional arrays that each contain three characters of its nine character, alphanumeric serial number. In order for this concept to work, the first three characters of the serial number must be constant for all parts of this type. As a result, the serial number can be divided among the arrays by using the first character as the first digit in the first array, the second character as the first digit in the second array, and the third character as the first digit in the third array. The remaining characters of the serial number are interleaved in the arrays in the following pattern: the fourth and fifth characters are the second and third digits in the first array, the sixth and seventh characters are the second and third digits in the second array, and the eighth and ninth characters are the second and third digits in the third array. With this system, the correct sequence for the arrays will always be ascertainable regardless of the order in which they are read. This concept is useful to maximize

the readability of the serial number in the presence of dirt, scratches, and contamination.